

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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O R 221404Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8149

USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS CAIRO 14461

STATE FOR NEA/EGY FOR AMB EILTS

ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP EG

SUBJ: CAIRO INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR 1977

REF/STATE 248515

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO CALL ATTENTION TO TWO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS RELATED TO U.S. PARTICIPATION IN CAIRO TRADE FAIR NEXT MARCH. PROMPT ACTION WILL BE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE OF SUFFICIENT SERIOUSNESS TO REQUIRE RECONSIDERATION OF PRESENT PLANS.

2. BUILDING: DUE TO DELAY IN DECIDING TO TAKE PART, U.S. HAS BEEN GIVEN STRUCTURE WHICH MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR OUR USE WITHOUT EXTENSIVE MODIFICATION. BUILDING NO. 7, WHICH IS ONLY ONE AVAILABLE, HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN USED AS OUTLET FOR CONSUMER GOODS. ITS LOCATION IS ACCEPTABLE (USDOC HAS PLANS OF FAIRGROUNDS), SINCE IT IS TO THE RIGHT OF ENTRANCE TO LAST YEAR'S U.S.PAVILLION AND OPEN ON SAME SQUARE, BUT IT HAS EXTENSIVE GLASS AREA ON THREE SIDES, FOR DISPLAY PURPOSES, OPENING DIRECTLY ON THE INTERIOR AND POSING PROBLEMS OF APPEARANCE, SECURITY AND HEAT BUILD-UP. FURTHER, GLASS DOES NOT GO ALL THE WAY TO ROOF, OPEN AREA ABOVE DISPLAY WINDOWS IS COVERED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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GRILL WORK. ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS ARE RELATED TO LACK OF TOILET

FACILITIES, INTERIOR PARTITIONS, NEON SIGNS ON ROOF, FACT THAT ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF COVERED SPACE IS NOT ENCLOSED, EXISTENCE OF THREE ENTRANCES, ETC.

3. DISPLAY SYSTEM: OUTER CONTAINERS FOR FAIR DISPLAY SYSTEM WRE SENT BACK TO GERMANY FROM ALEXANDRIA, AND CRATES (AS WELL AS UNCRATED MATERIALS), WHICH CAME TO CAIRO BY TRUCK, HAVE EVIDENCE OF CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE. SOME CRATES ARE WITHOUT LIDS, AND MATERIALS WHICH ARE VISIBLE (DESKS, LIGHT FIXTURES, WALL PANNELS, WHICH HAVE ALL BEEN DISASSEMBLED AND SOME OF THEIR PARTS SCATTERED) SHOW SIGNS OF DAMAGE AND /OR LOSS. PRECISE EXTENT OF OVERALL PROBLEM CANNOT BE ASCERTAINED WITHOUT COMPLETE UNPACKING OF LARGE CASES, A LARGE UNDERTAKING, AND CAREFUL ASSESSMENT.

4. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE EXPERTISE REQUIRED TO ASSESS EXTENT TO WHICH ABOVE PROBLEMS WILL AFFECT ABILITY OF U.S. TO TAKE PART IN FAIR. THOROUGHLY EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUAL (S) ARE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT SUITABILITY, COST AND TIMING FACTORS MEAN PRESENT PLANS TO PARTICIPATE NEED MODIFICATION, THIS MUST BE UNDERTAKEN PROMPTLY IN VIEW OF PROXIMITY OF FAIR PLUS FACT THAT AUTHORITIES ARE PRESSING HARD FOR WRITTEN COMMITMENT, ALREADY OVERDUE.

5. IN ASSESSING TOTAL PICTURE, DEPARTMENT AND USDOC SHOULD BE AWARE THAT EMBASSY STAFF-- BOTH THE E/C AND ADMIN SECTION-- WOULD FACE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN ATTEMPTING TO UNDERTAKE ANY MAJOR EFFORTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE HANDLED IN PREVIOUS YEARS (OTHER THAN RECRUITMENT). RESOURCES ARE ALREADY BADLY STRAINED BY CURRENT WORKLOAD, AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ASSUME MORE THAN A SUPPORTING ROLE.

6. PROBLEMS REPORTEDLY ABOVE ALSO POSE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES FOR USDOC, AS EMBASSY IS WELL AWARE, BUT OUR PARTICIPATION HAS CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE IN POLITICAL CONTEXT AS WELL AS MORE EVIDENT COMMERCIAL PURPOSES. IF TIME ALLOWS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, SUGGEST THIS MESSAGE BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF AMBASSADOR EILTS, WHO IS VERY INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT.

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7. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP ON AVAILABILITY OF SPECIALIST WHO CAN MAKE NECESSARY DETERMINATION.
MATTHEWS

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NNN

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